

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01195 112143Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SCSE-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00

/072 W

-----112157Z 014108 /64

P 112122Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4115

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN PRESS CARRIES ARTICLE ON COMPLAINTS OF
RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZEN PRISONERS

1. A "LATIN" WIRE SERVICE STORY CARRIED FEBRUARY 11
BY TWO OF THE THREE MAJOR LA PAZ DAILIES AND DATED
WASHINGTON, STATES THAT 23 PARENTS OF U.S. CITIZENS
JAILED IN BOLIVIA HAVE ASKED FOR A CONGRESSIONAL
INVESTIGATION.

2. THE ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT 32 AMERICANS ARE DETAINED
IN BOLIVIA ON DRUG CHARGES AND PARENTS CLAIM SOME HAVE
BEEN HELD WITHOUT TRIAL FOR OVERTHREE YEARS. ACCORDING
TO RELATIVES SOME WERE APPREHENDED WITH SMALL QUANTITIES
OF DRUGS IN THEIR POSSESSION WHILE OTHERS ARE ONLY HELD
ON SUSPICION, BUT NONE ARE TRAFFICKERS.

3. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RELATIVES IS QUOTED AS SAYING
THAT IN THREE YEARS OF PETITIONING TO THE STATE
DEPARTMENT THEY HAVE GOTTEN NOTHING BUT PROMISES.
THEY CLAIM THAT THE PRISONERS ARE NOT RECEIVING LEGAL
PROTECTION AND SUFFER FROM ILLNESSES DERIVING FROM
THE POOR SANITARY CONDITIONS IN THE LA PAZ JAIL.

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4. THE FAMILIES ARE ALLEGED TO BLAME THIS SITUATION
ON DEA AGENTS RATHER THAN BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES,
CLAIMING THAT DEA IS USING THE PRISONERS AS
PROOF OF THE SUCCESS OF THEIR ANTI-COCAINE CAMPAIGN.
WHEN, IN FACT, THEY ARE NOT REDUCING ILLEGAL TRAFFIC
AND ONLY INNOCENT PEOPLE AND MINOR OFFENDERS HAVE

BEEN APPREHENDED. (THE STORY NOTES THAT BOLIVIA ONLY ENACTED A NARCOTICS LAW IN 1973 AT WHICH TIME DEA AGENTS PROVIDED TRAINING FOR THE BOLIVIAN POLICE).

5. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT BESIDES VISITING AMBASSADOR CRESPO, THE RELATIVES HAVE MET WITH CONGRESSMEN TO REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION OF DEA ACTIVITIES IN BOLIVIA AS WELL AS THE LEGAL SITUATION OF THE PRISONERS. AT THE PARENTS' REQUEST, THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY SENT TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO BOLIVIA. STATE HAS SAID IT IS TAKING MEASURES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND IS IN CONTACT WITH BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES.

6. IN ANOTHER ARTICLE, APPEARING IN THE YOUTH SECTION OF THE FEBRUARY 10 PRESENCIA, A COLUMINIST, AFTER SUMMARIZING AND QUOTING THE JANUARY 1 JACK ANDERSON COLUMN, ASKS IF THE U.S. IS SEEKING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN THESE CASES RATHER THAN SUBSCRIBING TO EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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